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*******FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*******

STATE, BLM ENTER INTO HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP

CHEYENNE, Wyo. – The Wyoming Bureau of Land Management and the state of Wyoming are entering into a landmark partnership to ensure the protection of Wyoming's cultural heritage is balanced with flourishing natural gas development in the state.

The two have agreed to collaborate on historic preservation efforts in part by strengthening their working relationships. BLM will hire a new historic preservation liaison, who will be housed within the State Historic Preservation Office. BLM will lead the hiring efforts, with the state providing input toward the end of the process.

Together, the Bureau of Land Management and the State Historic Preservation Office will work to identify the key cultural and historic resources in the state, develop joint planning strategies for preservation and provide historic preservation assistance to others around the state.

"We have some wonderful historic sites in Wyoming that must be preserved," Gov. Dave Freudenthal said. "At the same time, we need to continue to develop our mineral resources without losing any of those significant sites that represent Wyoming's great cultural heritage."

The SHPO and BLM currently have a protocol agreement establishing procedures for protecting important cultural resources. This new agreement expands on the success of the original.

"We've worked well with SHPO in the past," BLM State Director Bob Bennett said. "This partnership between BLM and the state will continue our commitment to protecting our cultural resources. The agreement is unprecedented, and we're excited to be breaking new ground."